

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 03170 011152Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9416

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LONDON 03170

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, MARR, NATO, PFOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: (A) USNATO 1085 (B) USNATO 1107 (C) LONDON 2542

(D) LONDON 1805

1. WE RECOMMEND AGAINST U.S. ABANDONING ITS NEUTRALITY ON UK-ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE, AS SUGGESTED BY SYG LUNS FEBRUARY 26-27 (REFTELS A AND B) AND PREVIOUSLY BY ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT. IN OUR JUDGEMENT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT U.S. TILT TOWARD ICELAND WOULD PRODUCE HMG WILLINGNESS TO TAKE CONCILIATORY UNILATERAL STEPS WHICH IT ALMOST CEASELESSLY REPEATS WOULD BE MANIFESTLY UNFAIR IN ABSENCE OF GOI MOVEMENT. TO THE CONTRARY, WE FEAR ONE-SIDED U.S. PRESSURE ON HMG WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SINGULAR EFFECT OF ANNOYING BRITISH AND ESPECIALLY CALLAGHAN. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE IF WE HAD NOTHING TO OFFER AS SPECIFIC SIGNAL OF ICELANDIC FLEXIBILITY. WASHINGTON, OF COURSE, MUST DECIDE WHETHER NOW IS A PROPITIOUS MOMENT TO ALTER OUR POLICY AND PRESS THE UK UNILATERALLY TO WITHDRAW THE FRIGATES. WE WOULD ONLY OFFER THE REMINDER THAT FROM THE BRITISH PERSPECTIVE, SUCH A GESTURE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD IGNORE THE NEGOTIATILG HISTORY OF THIS DISPUTE AND COULD ONLY PROCEED FROM UK FAITH AND CHARITY. WITH REGARD TO THE
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PAGE 02 LONDON 03170 011152Z

GOI, SUCH MAGNANIMOUS QUALITIES ARE IN MIGHTY SMALL

SPIERS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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